

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O



For Release:
July 25, 2003

Contact: Dick Wadhams
(202) 224-6207
John Wood
(202) 224-5946

ALLARD REQUESTS HEARING FOR ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT BILL

COLORADO LAWMAKERS BILL COULD SEE ACTION BY SEPTEMBER

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) on Friday sent a letter to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources requesting a hearing on his Arkansas Valley Conduit legislation. Allard introduced the legislation (S. 1058) earlier this year. The Conduit is a pipeline that would supply water to citizens along the Arkansas River. It was initially authorized in 1962 with the enactment of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project.

In a letter to Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AL), Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Allard asked the committee to act by September, citing a need for swift action in response to community needs for clean, abundant drinking water. Earlier this year, Allard received a commitment from Senator Domenici (R-NM), Chairman of the Energy Committee, that the committee would work to provide a hearing for the bill.

“This is an important first step toward moving this legislation through the U.S. Senate,” said Allard. “The hearing will provide a forum for members of the U.S. Senate to learn how important it is that we fulfill the promise of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project made more than four decades ago to the people of the Lower Arkansas Valley to construct the Conduit,” added Allard.

The legislation creates a cost-share formula that requires the federal government to pay for 75 percent of the Conduit’s construction costs. The remaining 25 percent will be paid for by local entities. Allard worked closely with citizens and elected officials from communities in the Lower Arkansas Valley in the drafting of the legislation.

Colorado Fourth District U.S. Representative Marilyn Musgrave has introduced identical legislation to Allard’s in the U.S. House of Representatives.

###